BRITISH COLUMBIA

# BC STATS Infoline

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**http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca**

## highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

### *Labour Force*

- **BC's unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) dropped slightly in April to 6.9% from 7.0% in March but was nearly two full percentage points below the 8.8% of a year ago.** The Canadian rate remained unchanged at 6.8% between March and April and had also improved from the 8.2% level measured in April 1999. Among the provinces, the highest rate in April was in Newfoundland at 16.8%. The lowest unemployment rates were felt in the prairie provinces of Saskatchewan (4.8%), Manitoba (5.0%) and Alberta (5.1%).

  *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Employment in BC dropped by 9,600 workers from March to April, while the labour force shrank by 13,400 as fewer people were also seeking work.** Alberta (-0.3%) and Saskatchewan (-0.7%) also had declines in the number of people working. Employment for the country as a whole remained virtually unchanged.

  *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Youth employment was down by 2,000 in April from March.** However, for males, an estimated 900 more had jobs, while for females, there were 2,900 fewer with work. For persons 25 years and older, there was also a drop in employment. In a reversal of the youth situation, there were 5,100 fewer men working and 2,600 fewer women with jobs. For all age groups, men saw a loss of 9,100 full-time jobs but an increase of 4,900 part-time jobs. Women, on the other hand saw 5,400 more full-time jobs but a loss of 10,800 part-time jobs.

  *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Both the goods and service sectors saw job losses of half a percent in April over March levels.** This was a result of declines in agriculture (-7.2%), utilities (-7.7%), construction (-0.8%), retail and wholesale trade (-1.5%), education (-2.6%), other services (-3.0%) and public administration (-0.4%).

  *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Regionally, the lowest unemployment rates (actual 3-month moving averages) in April were in the Northeast (3.9%) and Mainland/Southwest (6.3%).** The highest rates were in Thompson-Okanagan (11.4%), Cariboo (11.3%) and Kootenay (11.1%).

  *Source: Statistics Canada*

### *Help-Wanted Index*

- **BC's Help Wanted Index (seasonally adjusted) declined slightly in April, to 1.4% below the March level.** However, the index has been trending up since 1996. This measure of metropolitan newspaper help-wanted ads was 16.9% above the level of April 1999. The Canadian index fell 2.3% in April but was 7.1% above the level of the previous April.

  *Source: Statistics Canada*

### *Prices*

- **BC softwood lumber prices continued to fall in March after having peaked in the summer of 1999.** Although overall, softwood lumber prices are up 1.8% over March 1999 levels, they are 18.2% below the July 1999 levels. Interior softwood lumber prices showed a 3.4% rise over March 1999, but have fallen 21.9% from the record level of last July. At the same time, BC Coast lumber prices averaged 1.5% lower than a year earlier, but 8.8% below the high set in September 1999. The Douglas Fir plywood price also set a record in the

**Report** **Provincial Electoral District Profiles**

***Did you know...***
***The average Canadian consumed 27.4 kg of pork and 31.0 kg of beef in 1999. That's 128 lbs. of red meat not counting veal and lamb.***

summer of 1999, and although the March level was 4.3% above the price a year earlier, it was 14.8% below the high of last August. Pulpwood chip prices have increased steadily since early 1999 and were up 9.9% over a year earlier.

*Source: Statistics Canada*

### *Business Conditions*

- **A quarter of BC manufacturers surveyed in April reported that they expected production to increase in the next three months, up only slightly (4%) from the proportion that reported in January that an increase was anticipated.** Twenty-eight percent also stated that new orders were rising, compared with 20% in the previous survey. However, 15% reported a decline in new orders, almost double the 8% who reported that in January.

  Across Canada, the proportion of manufacturers reporting expectations of increased production dropped from 40% in January to 34% in April. Those reporting rising levels of new orders increased only slightly from 28% to 30% between surveys, while those reporting declining levels remained the same at 8%.

  *Source: Statistics Canada*

### *Building Permits*

- **The value of BC building permits (seasonally adjusted) in March was up 30.9% over February.** BC recorded the third highest gain after Saskatchewan (+126.3%) and New Brunswick (+46.2%). Nationwide, permits were up 11.5%. Non-residential construction permit values in BC accounted for the largest share of the gain, up 48.3% in the month, while planned residential construction was up 19.0%. In the non-residential sector, the growth was in the commercial and institutional and government components. While industrial construction permit values declined (-41.9%), commercial permits were up strongly (+82.1%) as were permits for institutional and government projects (+27.6%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

### *The Nation*

- **Labour productivity increased 1.4% in 1999, reflecting strong growth in Gross Domestic Product (+4.7%) and hours worked (3.3%).** At the same time, unit labour costs rose 0.2%, the lowest increase in the past four years. Over the past decade, labour productivity growth averaged 1.1% annually compared to 1.2% in the 1973 to 1989 period. However, between 1966 and 1973, productivity growth rates averaged 3.7% per year.

  *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Foreign control of company assets in Canada stood at 22.6% in 1997, up 1.9 percentage points from 1988.** The industries with the highest levels of foreign control of assets were chemicals and chemical products and textiles at 71.1% and transportation equipment at 52.6%. Overall, foreign controlled firms were responsible for 31.0% of operating revenues, while foreign controlled companies in chemicals and chemical products and textiles generated 66.7% and transportation equipment generated 55.3% of revenues within their industries. American firms controlled 13.0% of corporate assets in Canada and 21.1% of operating revenue. *Source: Statistics Canada*

### *Transportation*

- **Canadian railways employed on average 45,318 people in 1998 down from 59,247 in 1993.** At the same time, total freight tonne-kilometres were 299.5 billion, up 16.8% over the same period. The number of passengers carried declined somewhat (-3.2%) to 3.98 million, although those passengers travelled somewhat greater distances.

  *Source: S C, Catalogue 52-216-XIB*



*For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number*

May 5, 2000 **Infoline Report:** **Provincial Electoral District Profiles** **March 2000**

Contact: Paul Gosh / (250) 387-9221
Available free at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca Available in print for $60 + GST.

*The highlighted publication is an in-depth review of the Provincial Electoral Districts that will be contested in the next general provincial election. This Infoline Report is not a summary but an effort to raise awareness of this new release from BC STATS. The spiral-bound and tab divided printed edition is a handy reference document. The entire publication, including additional detailed tables not published in the book, may be found on our Internet site. Under the heading Popular Topics, choose the first item, Provincial Electoral District Profile.*

### Introduction

This is the latest in a series of census-based profiles of British Columbia Provincial Electoral Districts (PED) produced by BC STATS. Single-page graphic profiles of current PEDs, based on the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, are posted on our web site.

The initial set of 1996 Census-based graphic profile pages conform to the riding boundaries in effect for the general provincial election held on May 28, 1996 and for subsequent by-elections. This report provides a demographic profile of PEDs based on the boundaries proposed by the *Electoral Boundaries Commission* on June 3, 1999. These boundaries will be in effect in the next general provincial election.

### What you get

Some people like to see information portrayed in pictures. Others think you've got something to hide unless you give them reams of tables and all the small print. We set out to satisfy both camps. We'll review a couple of profiles below, but all the tables and text are published on our site. We've even made it easy for you to download the tables for your own analysis.

We produced a graphic profile page for each of the 79 new PEDs and samples of two are included here. These pages result from data assembled from a series of tables that focus on a range of topics or characteristics.

While we have tried to make the charts representative of the underlying tables, the information we draw from is so rich and the presentation possibilities so open that all we can hope to do is pique your interest.

### What you'll learn

We've attached two profiles that are representative of different realities to be found in the urban core of the lower mainland and a resource dependent district.

#### Columbia River-Revelstoke

- With just over 34 thousand persons, Columbia River-Revelstoke is numerically small.
- While immigrants make up 24.2% of the population of BC, here they account for only 10.2%. By and large they are of European and American descent.
- Immigration from Europe remains a far stronger influence than the Asian influx that has only started to register since the 60s.
- The labour force has relatively greater numbers in primary and accommodation industries demonstrating the district's dependence on resources and tourism.
- Ethnically the district has a strongly European tone in a diversifying province. They tend to be inter-mingled with many claiming multiple ethnic origins.
- English is overwhelmingly spoken at home. Only 1.4% of the population speaks only a foreign language at home.
- Relative to BC, education levels are low. Relatively more have a trade certificate.

BC STATS, Min. of Finance & Corporate Relations, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gems8.gov.bc.ca

- First Nations representation matches their provincial share.

- Remarkably few were members of a visible minority.

- The area is slightly poorer than average and it is the sharply lower incomes of women here that account for much of the difference.

### Vancouver-Kensington

- Vancouver-Kensington is numerically large, densely populated urban riding with immigrants making up more than half (56.5%) the population.

- Most immigrants are from Asia.

- Prior to the 60's European immigrants outnumbered those from Asia. Since then, new European arrivals have all but disappeared.

- The top four ethnic origins are Chinese, East Indian, Filipino and Vietnamese. By far the majority of these claim only a single ethnic origin.

- Almost half the population (46%) speak a foreign language at home. Most of these speak Chinese.

- Households here tend to be larger.

- While relatively many have not completed high school, university attainment levels approach the provincial average.

- For remarkably many the language they first learned was foreign.

- Most are members of a visible minority.

- Incomes are below the provincial average.

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1996 Census Profile

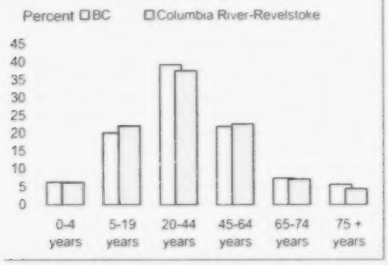
# Columbia River-Revelstoke 13

Provincial Electoral District

## Population by Age Group

| | Columbia River-Revelstoke | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **Total population** | | |
| (as of May 14, 1996) | 34,056 | 3,724,500 |
| Percent of BC | 0.9 | 100.0 |
| **Aged 20+ years** | 24,355 | 2,746,395 |
| Percent of total population | 71.5 | 73.7 |

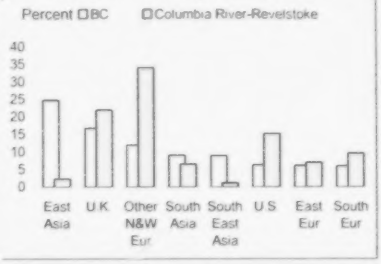
Population by Age Group




## Immigrant Population

| | Columbia River-Revelstoke | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **Non-Immigrants** | 29,620 | 2,756,530 |
| % born in BC | 58.0 | 63.2 |
| % born other provinces | 42.1 | 36.8 |
| **Immigrants** | 3,460 | 903,190 |
| % of population | 10.2 | 24.2 |

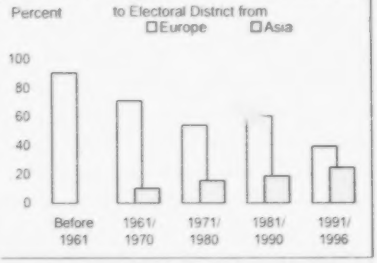
Birthplace of Immigrant Population




## Changing Face of Immigrants

| | Columbia River-Revelstoke | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **Ever immigrants** | 3,460 | 903,190 |
| % born in Europe | 71.0 | 40.1 |
| % born in Asia | 9.1 | 44.4 |
| **Immigrants since 1981** | 530 | 402,475 |
| % born in Europe | 51.9 | 16.0 |
| % born in Asia | 20.8 | 69.8 |

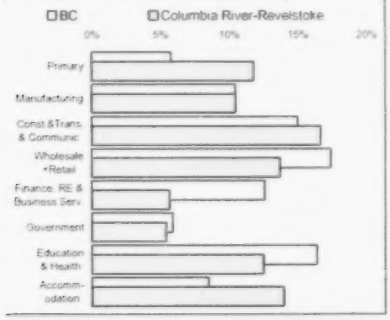
Percent of Immigrants from Europe and Asia




## Experienced Labour Force

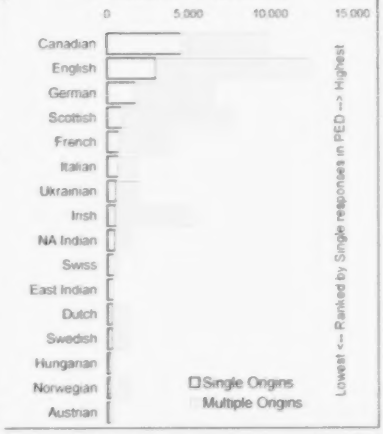
| | Columbia River-Revelstoke | BC |
|---|---|---|
| Population 15+ years | 26,550 | 2,954,705 |
| **Labour force** | 18,440 | 1,960,665 |
| Participation rate | 69.5 | 66.4 |
| Unemployment rate | 13.1 | 9.6 |
| Males | 13.9 | 9.8 |
| Females | 11.7 | 9.2 |

Labour Force by Industry




## Ethnicity

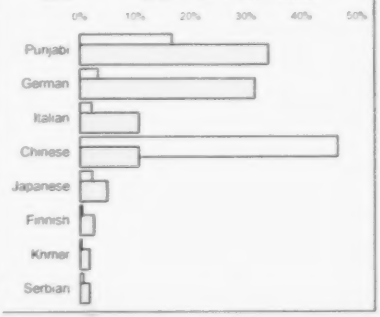
Single and Multiple Ethnic Origins in Columbia River-Revelstoke




## Home Language

| | Columbia River-Revelstoke | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **% reporting home language . . .** | | |
| Single response (one language) | 99.4 | 98.0 |
| English | 97.4 | 85.4 |
| Non-official (see chart) | 1.4 | 12.1 |
| Multiple response | 0.6 | 2.0 |

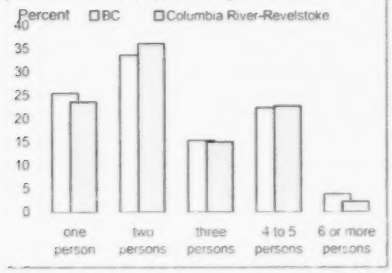
Single Non-official Home Language (Distribution)




## Private Households

| | Columbia River-Revelstoke | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **Total private households** | 13,265 | 1,424,635 |
| % single person h'seholds | 23.5 | 25.3 |
| **Total families** | 9,605 | 1,008,440 |
| % with children | 58.6 | 60.8 |
| % lone parent family | 11.2 | 13.8 |

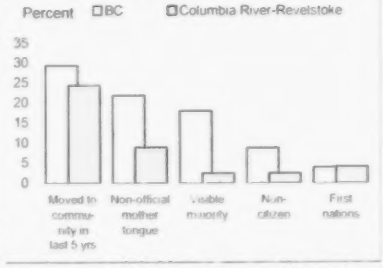
Households by Size




## Education & Social Groups

| | Columbia River-Revelstoke | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **% of population 15+ yrs having attained . . .** | | |
| Less than high school grad. | 36.4 | 31.1 |
| High school graduation | 13.1 | 12.9 |
| Trade certificate | 4.3 | 3.5 |
| Some university | 8.9 | 11.9 |
| University degree | 8.0 | 13.6 |

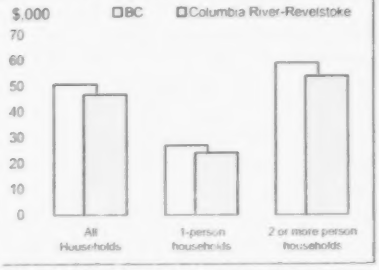
Selected Social Groups




## Income

| | Columbia River-Revelstoke | BC |
|---|---|---|
| Average Total Income | | |
| All 15 yrs+ with income | $24,859 | $26,295 |
| Males | $32,131 | $32,457 |
| Females | $16,921 | $20,028 |
| Avg. Employment Income | $24,619 | $27,480 |

Average Household Income

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Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and Housing

Produced by: *BC STATS (www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca)*

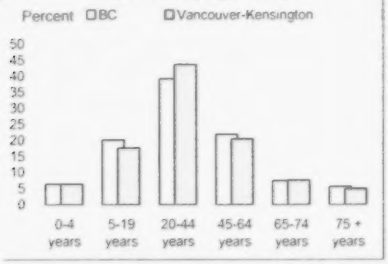
# 68 Vancouver-Kensington

Provincial Electoral District

## Population by Age Group

| | Vancouver-Kensington | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **Total population** | | |
| (as of May 14, 1996) | 52,316 | 3,724,500 |
| Percent of BC | 1.4 | 100.0 |
| **Aged 20+ years** | 39,785 | 2,746,395 |
| Percent of total population | 76.0 | 73.7 |

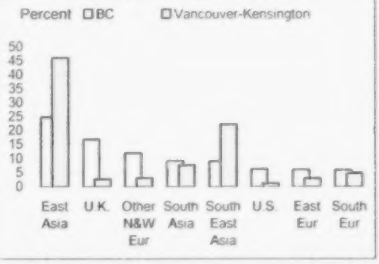
Population by Age Group




## Immigrant Population

| | Vancouver-Kensington | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **Non-Immigrants** | 21,830 | 2,756,530 |
| % born in BC | 73.2 | 63.2 |
| % born other provinces | 26.6 | 36.8 |
| **Immigrants** | 29,580 | 903,190 |
| % of population | 56.5 | 24.2 |

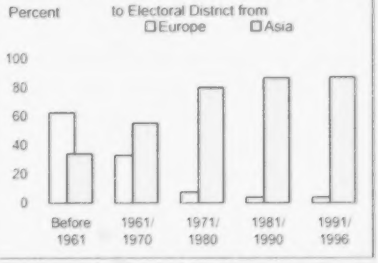
Birthplace of Immigrant Population




## Changing Face of Immigrants

| | Vancouver-Kensington | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **Ever immigrants** | 29,580 | 903,190 |
| % born in Europe | 13.3 | 40.1 |
| % born in Asia | 76.5 | 44.4 |
| **Immigrants since 1981** | 16,270 | 402,475 |
| % born in Europe | 3.5 | 16.0 |
| % born in Asia | 86.4 | 69.8 |

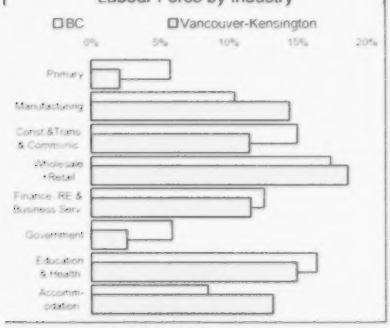
Percent of Immigrants from Europe and Asia




## Experienced Labour Force

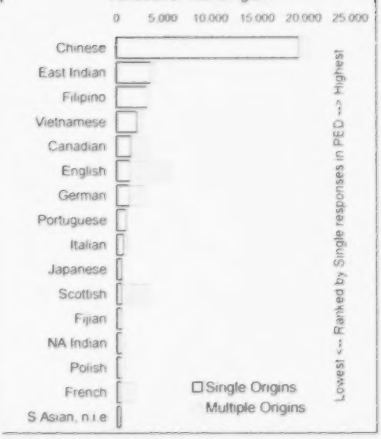
| | Vancouver-Kensington | BC |
|---|---|---|
| Population 15+ years | 42,615 | 2,954,705 |
| **Labour force** | 26,865 | 1,960,665 |
| Participation rate | 63.0 | 66.4 |
| Unemployment rate | 11.2 | 9.6 |
| Males | 11.8 | 9.8 |
| Females | 10.2 | 9.2 |

Labour Force by Industry




## Ethnicity

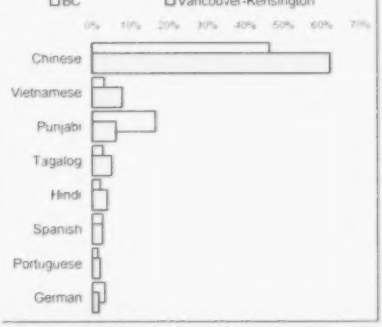
Single and Multiple Ethnic Origins in Vancouver-Kensington




## Home Language

| | Vancouver-Kensington | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **% reporting home language . . .** | | |
| Single response (one language) | 94.2 | 98.0 |
| English | 47.9 | 85.4 |
| Non-official (see chart) | 46.0 | 12.1 |
| Multiple response | 5.7 | 2.0 |

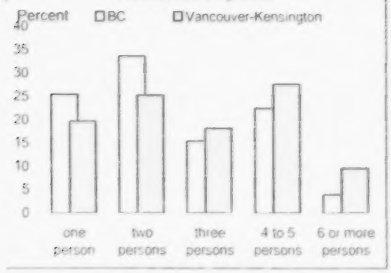
Single Non-official Home Language (Distribution)




## Private Households

| | Vancouver-Kensington | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **Total private households** | 16,880 | 1,424,635 |
| % single person h'seholds | 19.6 | 25.3 |
| **Total families** | 13,350 | 1,008,440 |
| % with children | 72.1 | 60.8 |
| % lone parent family | 18.3 | 13.8 |

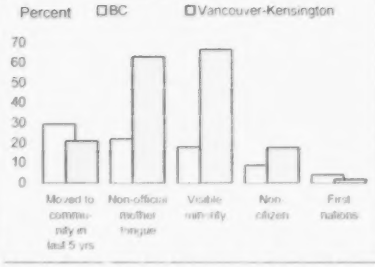
Households by Size




## Education & Social Groups

| | Vancouver-Kensington | BC |
|---|---|---|
| **% of population 15+ yrs having attained . . .** | | |
| Less than high school grad | 39.6 | 31.1 |
| High school graduation | 12.9 | 12.9 |
| Trade certificate | 1.9 | 3.5 |
| Some university | 11.6 | 11.9 |
| University degree | 12.6 | 13.6 |

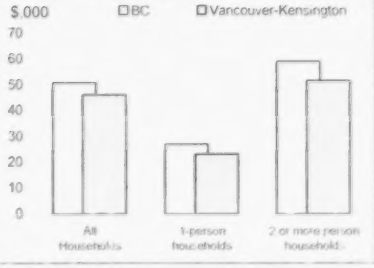
Selected Social Groups




## Income

| | Vancouver-Kensington | BC |
|---|---|---|
| Average Total Income | | |
| All 15 yrs+ with income | $19,621 | $26,295 |
| Males | $21,875 | $32,457 |
| Females | $17,404 | $20,028 |
| Avg. Employment Income | $21,456 | $27,480 |

Average Household Income

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Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population and Housing

Produced by: *BC STATS (www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca)*

# Infoline

May 5, 2000

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

## BC at a glance . . .

| POPULATION (thousands) | Jan 1/00 | % change on one year ago |
|---|---|---|
| BC | 4,043.7 | 0.9 |
| Canada | 30,606.7 | 0.9 |
| **GDP and INCOME** | | |
| *(BC - at market prices)* | 1998 | % change on one year ago |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)* | 110,948 | -0.2 |
| GDP *($ 1992 millions)* | 99,708 | 0.2 |
| GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)* | 24,908 | -0.8 |
| Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)* | 15,969 | -1.6 |
| **TRADE ($ millions)** | | |
| Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Feb | 3,339 | 14.0 |
| Merchandise Exports (raw) Feb | 2,397 | 13.6 |
| Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Feb | 2,900 | 5.3 |
| **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX** | | % change on |
| *(all items - 1992=100)* | Mar '00 | one year ago |
| BC | 112.3 | 1.8 |
| Canada | 112.8 | 3.0 |
| **LABOUR FORCE (thousands)** | | % change on |
| *(seasonally adjusted)* | Apr '00 | one year ago |
| Labour Force - BC | 2,081 | -0.1 |
| Employed - BC | 1,938 | 2.0 |
| Unemployed - BC | 143 | -21.9 |
| | | Apr '99 |
| Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)* | 6.9 | 8.8 |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)* | 6.8 | 8.2 |
| **INTEREST RATES (percent)** | May 3/00 | May 5/99 |
| Prime Business Rate | 7.00 | 6.25 |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year | 7.90 | 6.30 |
| - 5 year | 8.55 | 6.95 |
| **US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE** | May 3/00 | May 5/99 |
| *(avg. noon spot rate)* Cdn $ | 1.4920 | 1.4560 |
| US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)* | 0.6697 | 0.6894 |
| **AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE** | | % change on |
| *(industrial aggregate - dollars)* | Apr '00 | one year ago |
| BC | 635.93 | 3.4 |
| Canada | 612.24 | 3.4 |

**SOURCES:**

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfngen.htm

## Electoral District Profiles

BC STATS has just published a detailed review of the Provincial Electoral Districts (PED) that will be contested for the first time in the next general election. The new PEDs are the result of a rebalancing of the districts, proposed by the *Electoral Boundaries Commission* in June of 1999, and subsequently adopted by the Legislature. Four new ridings were added to bring the total to 79.

***Provincial Electoral District Profiles, March 2000***, organises the results of the 1996 Census within the new provincial ridings. A graphic profile page for each PED compares various census characteristics between the riding and the province. Sixty-two data tables reveal how groups of characterisitcs compare across all the ridings. Notes, maps, a glossary and an index help to make the information accessible. The spiral-bound and tab divided printed edition is a handy reference document that may easlily be slipped into a briefcase.

The entire publication, including additional tables not published in the book, may be found on our Internet site. See the first item under **Popular Topics** on the left side of our home page. Users require Acrobat to view and print the charts. The tabular data is available in CSV format for downloading.

Printed copies are $60, plus tax.

Contact Kris Ovens (250) 387-0359

### Released this week by BC STATS

- No subscription releases

### Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, April 2000
- Tourism Sector Monitor, April 2000 replaces Tourism Room Revenue

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